SLS 13RS-2022 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 91

BY SENATOR ALLAIN

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CONGRESS. Memorializes Congress to prevent unnecessary and unintended harm to coastal communities, individuals, and businesses by immediately amending the Biggert-Waters Act and mandating revision of FEMA flood-risk maps.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To memorialize the Congress of the United States to prevent unnecessary and unintended
3	harm to coastal communities, individuals, and businesses by immediately amending
4	the Biggert-Waters Act and mandating revision of Federal Emergency Management
5	Agency flood-risk maps.
6	WHEREAS, in 2012 Congress re-authorized the National Flood Insurance Program
7	in the Biggert-Waters Act; and
8	WHEREAS, language in the Biggert-Waters Act phases out certain subsidized flood
9	insurance rates, thereby allowing rate increases to the costs of obtaining such flood insurance
10	of either twenty or twenty-five percent a year, depending upon on the property, until
11	properties reach actuarial status; and
12	WHEREAS, at the same time the Federal Emergency Management Agency
13	("FEMA") issued new flood-risk maps showing that properties not protected by one hundred
14	year flood federal levees would be considered as inadequately safeguarded against floods,
15	with the result that such properties became significantly higher-risk property for the purpose
16	of flood insurance rate premium calculation and elevation requirements; and
17	WHEREAS, the confluence of these two events has resulted in potential economic
18	disaster for coastal communities, businesses, and individuals now faced not only with

unaffordable flood insurance premiums but also with the inability to transfer or sell property deemed by FEMA to be at higher risk of flooding; and

WHEREAS, legislation and amendments are pending in Congress to delay the premium increases authorized by the Biggert-Waters Act for one year to determine the effects of such changes upon the availability, affordability, and sustainability of flood insurance; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is also now in discussions to reconsider and revise its flood-risk maps to include the effects of locally built levees, pumping stations and floodgates, all of which have been funded, designed and built to provide substantial protection from flooding, and also to develop new maps that more accurately reflect actual area flood risk; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for both Congress and FEMA to take immediate action to prevent pending and unintended economic catastrophe for coastal communities, individuals, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, without action by both Congress and FEMA it has been estimated that at least half a million homes and businesses in Louisiana could be severely impacted, and that other coastal communities outside of Louisiana could face similar economic devastation, including communities, individuals, and businesses in New York, New Jersey and other states severely damaged by Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to prevent unnecessary and unintended harm to coastal communities, individuals, and businesses by immediately amending the Biggert-Waters Act and mandating revision of Federal Emergency Management Agency flood-risk maps.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress, and to the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry G. Jones.

DIGEST

Allain SCR No. 91

Memorializes Congress to prevent unnecessaryand unintended harm to coastal communities, individuals, and businesses by immediately amending the Biggert-Waters Act and mandating revision of Federal Emergency Management Agency flood-risk maps.